



# News Release

## IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

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Release 2002-52

### **STATE ENDOWMENT LANDS BEING RANKED FOR WIND ENERGY DEVELOPMENT POTENTIAL**

For Immediate Release  
Boise, Idaho - Aug. 12, 2002

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Wind energy development is the fastest growing segment of the national energy sector, including here in Idaho. Now, state energy officials are scrutinizing Idaho public lands to determine their potential for generating taxpayer revenue with wind farms on state lands, the Idaho Energy Division said today.

State energy wind power specialists will meet Thursday with the Idaho Department of Lands to create a Top 10 list of Idaho Endowment lands suitable for wind energy development. Preliminary results show the front-runners appear to be large tracts of state-owned land east of Priest Lake and west of Mountain Home.

The project involves computer technology that can overlay digital Idaho wind power resource maps with grids outlining state owned lands. Maps showing power transmission lines, roads and other important wind power development requirements are then added. The result is a ranking of areas of public land with high potential for wind energy development.

Energy and Lands specialists at the meeting will use the list to pick sites where wind-measuring devices called anemometers will be installed. The anemometers are installed on towers where they measure and record wind speeds. The wind speed data is a crucial element in determining whether or not a site has commercial development potential.

Once the wind measurement phase is completed, state land managers would have a comprehensive listing of state owned lands that could potentially be marketed to commercial wind energy developers as possible wind power development sites.

Wind power developers typically pay landowners upwards of \$4,000 per year per turbine to lease ground on which the wind turbines are situated.

The meeting will be held at 10:00 a.m., Thursday (August 15) at the Idaho Department of Lands office, 954 W. Jefferson Street.

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